

## Quotes of support for Senator Franken's Pay for War Resolution

"Senator Franken's proposal is serious and smart. It seeks to remedy a major problem of the last decade—fighting wars while not asking the broader nation for sacrifice and commitment, and meanwhile racking up federal debt in a way that endangers the economic prospects of future generations. In times of war, we will always ask more of our men and women in uniform than most of us can possibly give, but public policy should seek to broaden the citizenry's involvement in wars of national purpose, and also avoid further exacerbation of our serious debt problem. This bill also continues enough wiggle room that, in a true emergency under extreme economic conditions, the stipulations would not be excessively binding. It is a good corrective to problems of the past and merits solid, bipartisan support."

**-Michael O'Hanlon, Brookings Institution**

"Given our country's deteriorating financial condition, huge structural deficits and the number of overseas contingency operations in recent years, the Pay For War Resolution makes sense. We need to have more timely and informed debate about committing U.S. forces and the related human, financial and other costs."

**-Hon. David M. Walker, Former Comptroller General of the United States**

"Now that we have a volunteer military, we have created a situation where the vast majority of people in the country have no direct connection to the people serving in the military. If we think that a situation requires the men and women in our military to risk their own lives, then the rest of us should at least be willing to pay for the cost of this adventure with our tax dollars."

**-Dean Baker, Co-Director, Center for Economic and Policy Research**

"Our current levels of debt and deficits force us to take a more comprehensive look at how the United States funds its overseas engagements. In these times, we must verify the importance of every dollar spent. This mantra does not only imply that we must root out the "waste, fraud, and abuse" in our annual budget, but also that we must force our leaders to prioritize the actions that our government takes. Congress and the president should adhere to the principles of pay-as-you-go throughout the budget – warfunding should not be exempt."

**-Bipartisan Policy Center**

"I am writing to express the Center for American Progress Action Fund's support for the Pay for War Resolution and to thank you for your leadership on this issue. The resolution will help restore fiscal discipline to our defense budget process by requiring that all future overseas military operations be deficit neutral."

**-Lawrence J. Korb, Center for American Progress Action Fund**

“For the past decade, Congress and the executive branch have avoided the question of paying for war operations by separating them into a special budget and financing them on the national credit card. But these book-keeping sleights of hand are inconsistent with our history. We traditionally have understood and accepted the need for tradeoffs in defense and the rest of the budget when we deploy forces in combat. This proposed resolution could help open an important discussion about how we can restore some of the fiscal discipline we lost over the defense budget, both for war operations and the overall defense funding plan.”

**-Dr. Gordon Adams, Professor of International Relations at the School of International Service, American University and Distinguished Fellow at the Stimson Center**

“Democracies cannot accurately evaluate policies with hidden costs. Deficit financing sends war bills to future taxpayers. That limits the extent to which voters and their representatives weigh the wars’ cost against other priorities. The effect is to make war feel cheaper. There are rare times where debt financing for wars in truly critical circumstances is appropriate, and Senator Franken's resolution provides for those situations. But you need not oppose our present wars to agree that we ought to avoid paying for them on credit. Rather, you need only agree that by obscuring the taxpayer’s view of the relationship between policies’ benefit and cost, debt-bought wars debase democracy.”

**- William A. Niskanen, Chairman Emeritus and Distinguished Senior Economist, Cato Institute**

**Benjamin Friedman, Research Fellow in Defense and Homeland Studies Cato Institute**

“A fundamental aspect of budgeting, and governing for that matter, should be that if something is important enough to do, it is important enough to pay for. Military operations should not be exempt from this principle. This bill is a sensible approach to ensuring that we budget for war.”

**–Maya MacGuineas, President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget**